Claims

1. Chromatography column distribution system (101) comprising a set of first bed support ribs (107) extending radially from a inner, first radial position (R1) near the centre of the plate to a outer radial position nearer to the periphery (109) of the plate and at least one set of intermediate bed support ribs (117, 119) starting at an intermediate radial position (R2, R3) and extending to an outer radial position nearer to the periphery (109) of the plate (101), whereby channels are formed between adjacent bed support ribs (107, 117, 119) and the desired effective local channel height is intended to vary in accordance with a predetermined formula from said first radial position R1 to said outer radial position, characterised in that the transverse cross-sectional areas of said ribs (107, 117, 119) or said channels are adapted such that the actual local effective channel height is within 15% of the desired local effective channel height over portions of the distribution system situated between said first radial position (R1) and said outer radial position, wherein the total length of said portions correspond to at least 80% of the distance between said first radial position (R1) and said outer radial position.
2. Chromatography column distribution system (101) in accordance with claim 1 characterised in that the transverse cross-sectional areas of said ribs (107, 117, 119) or said channels are adapted such that the actual local effective channel height is within 10% of the desired local effective channel height.
3. Chromatography column distribution system (101) in accordance with claim 1 or claim 2 characterised in that the transverse cross-sectional areas of said ribs (107, 117, 119) or said channels are adapted such that the actual local effective channel height is within 5% of the desired local effective channel height.
4. Chromatography column distribution system (101) in accordance with any of the previous claims characterised in that said local effective channel height varies inversely in proportion to the radial distance from (R1).
5. Chromatography column distribution system (101) in accordance with any of the previous claims characterised in that said portions correspond to at least 90% of the distance between said first radial position (R1) and said outer radial position.

6. Chromatography column distribution system (101) in accordance with any of the previous claims characterised in that said portions correspond to at least 95% of the distance between said first radial position (R1) and said outer radial position.